

Town of Harpswell

Harbor & Waterfront Water Classification Definitions

(Pursuant to M.R.S Title 38 §2)

Type 1 Waters – Low Intensity Use Areas

Type 1 Waters or Low Intensity Use Areas have a high scenic value and often only low intensity residential development. The waters in these areas support fish and wildlife habitat which is valuable to commercial fishing activities, recreation and environmental quality. Shallow waters, mud flats, exposed shoreline, or undeveloped shorelines are common. Land Use Zoning is typically Resource Protection or residential. Possible uses include seasonal moorings associated with individual waterfront properties, transient anchorage areas, docks/piers associated with residential uses, high value shell fishing areas, recreational uses and aquaculture.

Type 2 Waters – Multi-purpose Waters

Type 2 Waters are the most common throughout town. These areas support a variety of commercial and recreational activities. They are important areas for marine resources, lobster fishing and aquaculture. Land uses adjacent to these waters can vary, but are generally residential in nature with some home based businesses related to waterfront activities. Common uses include small independent commercial fishing operations, recreational boating, sport fishing, small mooring areas, aquaculture areas, and residential docks/piers.

Type 3 Waters – High Intensity Boating

High Intensity Boating areas are characterized by dense concentrations of boating activity. Mooring fields are large, often considered at capacity, and associated with heavily used points of access (either private or public). The dominant type of boating activity (commercial or recreational) depends largely on the adjacent land use and use at the access point. Land uses might include marinas, commercial fishing wholesalers, boat yards, town landings, and water dependent businesses.

Type 4 Waters – Commercial and Recreational Harbors

Harbors support the maximum variety of uses within a confined geographic area. Most of the harbors developed around the Town's Historic fishing villages. Within these harbor waters, moorings and the mooring fields are congested and include commercial fishing vessels and recreational boats. Landside these harbors can be considered mixed use with residential homes, commercial fishing businesses, and other uses co-existing and sharing the limited space. The visual quality of these harbors is important and tourism is supported in these areas